

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the abstract as follows:

The invention relates to an apparatus and method for manufacturing molten iron. The method for manufacturing molten iron includes producing a mixture containing iron by drying and mixing iron-containing ore and additives, passing the mixture containing iron through one or more successively-connected fluidized beds so that the mixture is reduced and calcined to thereby perform conversion into a reduced material, forming a coal packed bed, which is a heat source in which the reduced material has been melted, charging the reduced material to the coal packed bed and supplying oxygen to the coal-packed bed to manufacture iron, and supplying reduced gas exhausted from the coal-packed bed to the fluidized bed, wherein in the conversion of the mixture to a reduced material, oxygen is directly supplied and combusted in an area where reduced gas flows to the fluidized bed. The apparatus for manufacturing molten iron of the ~~present~~ invention uses this method for manufacturing molten iron. Through use of the ~~present~~ invention, the reduced gas passing through the fluidized beds may be improved, and cohesion of the iron-containing fine ores may be prevented.